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MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey
January 2006

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EDUCATIONAL NEWS

The Center is pleased to announce the following upcoming instructional opportunities for educators.

- **Project Learning Tree in the Urban Classroom**
- Wednesday, February 15, 2006
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Fee: \$10.00
- For K-8 teachers and scout leaders

This award-winning program is adaptable to a diversity of formal and non-formal teaching/learning environments, including urban settings. Using trees as models, students learn environmental content that correlates to standards in science, social studies, language arts, and math, while strengthening their higher-order thinking skills.

- **Get WET in the Meadowlands**
- Friday, February 24, 2006
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Fee: \$25.00
- For K-8 teachers

This Water Education for Teachers Curriculum and Activity Guide is a collection of over 90 science-based, interdisciplinary activities and lesson plans that are teacher-tested and classroom ready. We will sample activities that can supplement your existing curriculum or be used in planning longer units.

- **Meadowlands Self-Guided Teacher Associate Program**
- Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, 2006

- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. both days
- Fee: \$60.00
- For 4-12th grade teachers

If you'd like the flexibility of running your own field trips at the Meadowlands Environment Center and DeKorte Park, consider becoming a Self-Guided Teacher Associate. Over the course of two days, participate in an interdisciplinary study of our urban estuarine wetlands. Background information, hands on practice, field equipment, and pre and post lessons will be provided. For more information or to find out when the next round of training will occur, please contact: Teacher Associate Program Coordinator Meadowlands Environment Center 2 DeKorte Park Plaza Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 201-460-8300 education@njmeadowlands.gov

[To learn more about MEC Professional Development opportunities please click here](#)

EVENTS AT THE CENTER

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The 2006 Winter/Spring schedule of events (SOE) is now available for distribution. SOE activities will resume in February. Hard copies of the brochure may be obtained in the lobby of the Center or by joining the Centers mailing list.

[To view an electronic version of the schedule please click here](#)

## **INTRODUCING THE NATURE PROGRAM COOPERATIVE**

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You might not realize it but there are over a dozen places and organizations in Bergen County that provide quality nature programs. Recently, they created the Nature Program Cooperative – a pooling of knowledge and resources designed to offer the people of our region greater opportunities to explore and enjoy the County's natural side. From hikes to boat trips to live animal presentations to slideshows to hands-on activities to paddling adventures and more, it is all available here in Bergen County.

Throughout the year, different partners of the Co-op will host an outdoor activity or indoor educational program at a nature center or other appropriate location to which all group members are invited. We hope to encourage more people to visit the Meadowlands to the south, the Palisades to the east, the reservoirs to the north and the Highlands to the west, and everywhere in between.

When applicable, member discounts will apply to all Co-op partner members and supporters. For example, when the Meadowlands Environment Center hosts an event, members of all other groups pay the MEC member rate. Non-members are also welcome to attend. All events will be advertised in each group's newsletter.

JANUARY NPC EVENT

- Winter Tree Identification in Greenbrook Sanctuary
- Sponsored by the Nature Program Cooperative
- Hosted by Greenbrook Sanctuary
- Sunday, January 22, 2006
- Snow date: January 29
- 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Join us for a winter hike along the top of the Palisades and learn how to identify trees and shrubs without their leaves. Participants will learn how to recognize ten species of trees and five shrubs using buds, bark and fruits. Dress for cold weather and please wear hiking boots. We will meet at the Orientation Center. Entrance to Sanctuary is .8 miles north of East Clinton Avenue on Route 9W in Tenafly, NJ. Non-members note that the gate will be open from 12:45 PM – 1:10 PM the day of the hike. Please be prompt.

Limit 20 participants. Members Free; Non-members \$5.00 Any questions or to register by phone please call Greenbrook Sanctuary at (201) 768-1360.

MEET THE STAFF

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*Every month we introduce you to the staff of the Meadowlands Environment Center. This month we feature some of the "behind the scenes" individuals who make the center run smoothly day in and day out.*

**Michelle Gamarello**, Special Programs Coordinator, is responsible for the direction of many of our non- educational programs. If you have spent time in our gift store - Tideland Treasures, attended a volunteer or membership event, or plan to work with our educational staff as a docent - then you have directly or indirectly witnessed the fruits of her labor.

**Anita Panecki**, Information Specialist, is responsible for handling registrations and confirmations for our Schedule of Events activities and our Scouting Programs. She is also the individual who handles the facilities room reservations. In addition, Anita maintains the department database which results in the production of our monthly reports and mailing list.

**Grace Tarascavage**, Secretary, is responsible for handling registrations and confirmations for our Educational Programs. She is also in charge of our purchasing and order placement procedures for the Center. Grace is the primary contact and support for the Executive Staff at the Center.

## FLYWAY GALLERY

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Nature of the Meadowlands - January 4th through February 3rd

In December of 2005, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission announced the winners of its Nature of the Meadowlands photo contest.

- **First Place, \$500 prize, Diane Cismowski** of Secaucus for her photograph "The Balance"
- **Second Place, \$250 prize, Laura Rodrigues** of North Arlington for her photograph "Meadowlands Dusk"
- **Third Place, \$100 prize, Donna Hewa** of North Arlington for her photograph "Breakfast Buddies"

The top three photos, as well as a selection of the 92 entries for the contest are on display in the Flyway Gallery located off the lobby of the Meadowlands Environment Center.

[For more information on the NJMC Arts in the Meadowlands Program click here](#)

Quick Links...

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- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [MEC Media Center](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

## Lara Rodriguez

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